United Nations E/CN.7/2016/NGO/3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 March 2016

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Fifty-ninth session
Vienna, 14-22 March 2016
Agenda Item 9
Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Written statement submitted by Turkish Green Crescent Society

The Secretary-General has received the following paper, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Written Statement by Turkish Green Crescent Society*

Introduction

Turkish Green Crescent is an organization with ECOSOC special consultative statues, and working on all aspects of addiction through advocacy, prevention and rehabilitation practices at national and international levels. With the support of extensive network of our 102 local branches, we endeavour to promote public health and preventive works across Turkey and beyond borders with branches in 30 countries. In the 59th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it is our privilege to address and deliver the priorities of our organization concerning the UNGASS 2016.

Public Health

The world has seen the necessity of a switch from punitive actions to more public health-oriented responses to drug users. As opposed to legal sanctions which include criminal punishment or strong penalties for drug users, public health approach, essentially focusing on promoting drug prevention, treatment, and recovery, should be adopted though community and evidence-based programmes. Any act of discrimination, stigmatization or labelling to drug users should no longer be acceptable.

The prevention strategies have proven to be critically important to promote the health for the communities especially the young population which has the highest risk to develop dependency and drugs and other substances. We believe that all states should establish and develop drug abuse prevention policies, programmes or systems, which are compatible with International Standards.

We support the drug policies built upon effective and community-based prevention strategies. We urge public health oriented policies that are centred on prevention as the best intervention to reduce drug-related harms to individuals. governments to develop public health-oriented policies that are centred on prevention as the best intervention to reduce drug-related harms to individuals.

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